

## Message Text

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64

ACTION MBFR-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 EB-11

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 SAJ-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 097036

R 141504Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3992

INFO DOD WASHDC

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

XAMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG 2142

AMEMBASSY OLSO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY OF MBFR NEGOTIATING  
POSITION

REF: STATE 181638, 182240

1. ONLY DETAILED REPORT ALONG LINES LA TIMES STORY  
HAS BEEN 14 SEPTEMBER DAILY EXPRESS DISCUSSION OF  
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POSSIBLE TROOP REDUCTION IN CONTEXT OF ITEM ON PRESIDENT

NIXON'S VISIT TO WESTERN EUROPE THIS FALL. DAILY EXPRESS, DATLINED WASHINGTON, ASSERTS PRESIDENT WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH OUR NATO PARTNERS DETAILS OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS -- REPORTEDLY AGREED BILATERALLY WITH THE SOVIETS -- DURING THE FIRST PHASE OF WHICH 31,500 US SERVICEMEN AND 67,500 SOVIET TROOPS WOULD RETURN TO THEIR HOME SOIL. TROOP LEVELS UNDER THE AGREEMENT, IT STATES, EVENTUALLY WOULD REACH 700,000 MEN EACH FOR THE PACT AND NATO.

2. FINANCIAL TIMES OF 14 SEPT. CARRIES BRIEF REPORT OF DENIAL HERE (PRESUMABLY BY FCO) OF BURDEN OF LA TIMES STORY AS "PREMATURE AND SPECULATIVE". FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTS SPECULATION THAT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WILL LEAD, AT LEAST INITIALLY, TO A 10 PERCENT TROOP CUT ON EACH SIDE, BUT NOTES ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT A NATO POSITION HAS NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED. DAILY MAIL ALSO HAS BRIEF ITEM ON LA TIMES STORY.

3. EMBASSY INFORMED FCO 13 SEPT. OF LINE WE INTEND TO TAKE IF QUERIED ON TOTH STORY; BRITISH AGREED WITH THIS APPROACH AND PLAN FOLLOW OUR LEAD. EMBASSY HAS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE LA TIMES STORY TO THE FEW LOCAL NEWSMEN WHO HAVE CONTACTED US THUS FAR.

SOHM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 SEP 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS SOHM  
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**Office:** ACTION MBFR  
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